

International News

- Paraguay Joins International Solar Alliance (ISA):** Paraguay officially ratified the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming its newest member state. The integration strengthens South American representation in ISA, focusing on scaling up solar energy deployment, driving clean energy transition, and mitigating climate vulnerabilities in landlocked developing nations.
- WWF Living Planet Report 2026 Findings:** The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) released the Living Planet Report 2026, revealing an average **73% decline in monitored vertebrate wildlife populations** (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish) between 1970 and 2022. Freshwater species suffered the heaviest decline (over 85%), driven primarily by habitat fragmentation, river damming, overexploitation, and climate change.

National News & Environment

- 10th India Mobile Congress (IMC 2026) Inaugurated:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. The conference highlights India's progress in 6G research, satellite communication frameworks, quantum communication networks, and cybersecurity architecture.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve Becomes 3rd Cheetah Habitat:** Following Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh officially designated the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Nauradehi) as the state's third cheetah habitat with the successful release of two cheetahs. This

move aims to decentralize the cheetah population to minimize territorial conflict and disease risk.

Economics & Banking News



Reserve Bank of India Monetary Policy. Source: RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Key Decisions: The 63rd meeting of the RBI Monetary Policy Committee concluded with a **25 basis point (bps) hike** in the key policy repo rate to **5.50%**. The decision reflects proactive measures against persistent headline inflation triggered by crude oil volatility and uneven monsoon impacts.

Policy Metric	Revised Rate / Projection	Key Highlights
Policy Repo Rate	5.50% (+25 bps)	Benchmarking loan resets upward
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	5.25%	Floor of the liquidity corridor

Policy Metric	Revised Rate / Projection	Key Highlights
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	5.75%	Ceiling of the policy corridor
Bank Rate	5.75%	Aligned with MSF rate
Policy Stance	Calibrated Tightening	Shifted from Neutral stance
FY 2026-27 Real GDP Forecast	7.1%	Supported by robust domestic consumption
FY 2026-27 CPI Inflation	5.2%	Projected headline inflation target

Defense & Security News

- DRDO Operationalizes Indigenous Carbon-Nanotube Reactor:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully operationalized a high-yield, indigenous Carbon-Nanotube (CNT) manufacturing reactor. This reactor produces high-purity CNTs required for advanced stealth radar-absorbing coatings and lightweight composite structures in 5th-generation fighter aircraft and missile systems.
- Multinational Maritime Exercise Focus:** Preparations and planning briefings were finalized for the upcoming edition of Exercise MILAN, emphasizing Indo-Pacific maritime domain awareness, submarine

rescue coordination, and interoperability among friendly foreign navies.

Awards & Honors (Nobel Prize Announcements 2026)



2026 Nobel Prize Announcements. Source:

- Nobel Prize in Literature 2026:** Awarded to Canadian poet, essayist, and classical scholar **Anne Carson** for her lyrical invention and reinterpretation of classical Greek literature in modern prose and poetry.
- Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026:** Awarded jointly to **Henri B. Kagan** (France) and **Kenso Soai** (Japan) for their pioneering discovery of non-linear effects and asymmetric autocatalysis in organic synthesis.
- Nobel Prize in Physics 2026:** Awarded to **Francis Halzen** (USA) for his foundational contribution to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica and the discovery of high-energy cosmic neutrinos.
- Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026:** Jointly awarded to **Karl Deisseroth** (USA), **Peter Hegemann** (Germany), and **Georg Nagel** (Germany) for the discovery of light-

gated ion channels and the development of optogenetics.

Government Schemes & MoUs

- **PM- Vikas Scheme Progress Review:** The Union Cabinet reviewed the implementation framework of the **Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM-VIKAS)** scheme. Key focus areas include end-to-end support for traditional artisans (Vishwakarmas), credit linkage at subsidized interest rates (5%), skill training toolkits, and onboarding onto the GeM (Government e-Marketplace) portal.

Important Days & Themes

- **Indian Air Force (IAF) Day (8th October):** Marks the 94th anniversary of the establishment of the Indian Air Force in 1932. Celebrated with air displays and operational parades highlighting "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" in air defense, defense indigenization (Tejas Mk1A, Prachand LCH), and global humanitarian assistance missions (HADR).
- **World Octopus Day (8th October):** Observed internationally to raise awareness about marine biodiversity, cephalopod intelligence, and ocean ecosystem conservation.

Art, Culture & Festivals

- **Bathukamma Floral Festival:** Celebrations for the annual floral festival Bathukamma continue across Telangana and parts of Andhra Pradesh. The festival represents cultural reverence for nature and water bodies, centered around women arranging seasonal flowers in concentric layers.

Practice MCQs with Detailed Explanations

Q1. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to Francis Halzen for which landmark scientific achievement?

- A) Discovery of gravitational wave background emissions
- B) Decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and high-energy neutrinos
- C) Development of room-temperature quantum superconductors
- D) Invention of attosecond laser pulses for electron dynamics

Answer: B) Decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and high-energy neutrinos

Explanation: American physicist Francis Halzen was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for building and utilizing the IceCube Neutrino Observatory embedded beneath the South Pole ice, enabling the detection of astrophysical "ghost particles" (neutrinos).

Q2. Following the October 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision, what is the revised Policy Repo Rate set by the Reserve Bank of India?

- A) 5.00%
- B) 5.25%
- C) 5.50%
- D) 5.75%

Answer: C) 5.50%

Explanation: The RBI MPC voted to increase the repo rate by 25 basis points from 5.25% to 5.50% and shifted its policy stance to "Calibrated Tightening".

Q3. Which tiger reserve recently became the third habitat for cheetah reintroduction in Madhya Pradesh?

- A) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- B) Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Nauradehi)
- C) Satpura Tiger Reserve
- D) Pench Tiger Reserve

Answer: B) Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Nauradehi)

Explanation: Madhya Pradesh established Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Nauradehi) as its third cheetah conservation ground, following Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q4. Which international organization recently ratified Paraguay as its newest member state?

- A) New Development Bank (NDB)
- B) International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- D) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Answer: B) International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Explanation: Paraguay ratified the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), bolstering clean energy infrastructure collaboration across Latin America.

Q5. What is the primary operational objective of the carbon-nanotube (CNT) manufacturing reactor launched by DRDO?

- A) Producing lightweight stealth composites and radar-absorbing structural materials
- B) Purifying deep-sea water for naval submarine personnel
- C) Synthesizing high-density bio-diesel fuel for military vehicles
- D) Manufacturing semiconductor microchips for space probes

Answer: A) Producing lightweight stealth composites and radar-absorbing structural materials

Explanation: DRDO's reactor synthesizes high-purity CNTs domestically to manufacture lightweight, radar-absorbing stealth composites for advanced defense aircraft and missile platforms.

1. Awards & Honors (Nobel Prizes 2026)

A. Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026

- **Laureates:** Karl Deisseroth (Stanford University, USA), Peter Hegemann (Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany), and Georg Nagel (University of Würzburg, Germany).
- **Citation:** "For their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics."
- **Key Significance:**
 - The laureates discovered and developed **optogenetics**, a revolutionary biological technique that uses light to control individual neurons inside living tissue in real time.
 - They identified channelrhodopsins—light-sensitive proteins found in green algae—and engineered them into nerve cells, allowing scientists to activate or inhibit specific neural pathways with millisecond precision.
 - This breakthrough has transformed neuroscience, leading to crucial insights into Parkinson's disease, depression, addiction, and blindness treatments.

B. Nobel Prize in Physics 2026

- **Laureate:** Francis Halzen (University of Wisconsin–Madison, USA).
- **Citation:** "For decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the



discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin."

- **Key Significance:**
 - Halzen led the design and deployment of the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory**, built deep beneath the ice sheet at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in Antarctica.
 - IceCube uses a cubic kilometer of clear Antarctic ice embedded with optical sensors to detect subatomic particles known as **neutrinos** ("ghost particles").
 - The observatory successfully detected high-energy cosmic neutrinos originating from extreme cosmic events like blazars and active galactic nuclei outside the Milky Way.

C. Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026

- **Laureates:** Henri B. Kagan (Université Paris-Sud, France) and Kenso Soai (Tokyo University of Science, Japan).
- **Citation:** "For the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis."
- **Key Significance:**
 - The duo provided fundamental insights into **homochirality**—the biological phenomenon where almost all amino acids in living organisms are left-handed and sugars are right-handed.
 - Soai discovered the **Soai Reaction**, where a compound acts as a chiral catalyst for its own formation (asymmetric autocatalysis), proving how slight enantiomeric excess can be amplified to 100% purity.
 - Kagan pioneered non-linear effects in organometallic catalysis, enabling ultra-efficient synthesis of single-enantiomer pharmaceuticals.

2. Defense News

94th Indian Air Force (IAF) Day

- **Date:** October 8, 2026.
- **Edition:** 94th Anniversary (IAF was established on October 8, 1932).
- **Theme 2026:** "Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise".
- **Operational Highlights:**
 - Demonstrations focused on net-centric warfare capabilities, indigenous platform integration (LCH Prachand, Tejas Mk-1A, SAMAR air defense systems), and satellite-linked tactical combat clouds.
 - Emphasized operational readiness along high-altitude operational sectors and indigenization under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

3. Economics & Banking

A. RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Review (October 2026)

- **Policy Rate Action:** The MPC voted unanimously to raise the **Repo Rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.50%**.
- **Policy Stance:** Shifted to "**Calibrated Tightening**" from "Withdrawal of Accommodation".
- **Key Rates Breakdown:**
 - **Repo Rate:** 5.50%
 - **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate:** 5.25%
 - **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate:** 5.75%
 - **Bank Rate:** 5.75%
- **Rationale:** Mitigating persistent core inflation pressures, stabilizing the rupee against foreign capital outflow pressures,

and anchoring medium-term growth expectations.

B. 57th GST Council Meeting

- **Location:** New Delhi.
- **Chairperson:** Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman.
- **Key Decisions:** Rate rationalization on specialized healthcare equipment, tax clarity on online gaming/fintech transactions, and simplified compliance mechanisms for MSME exporters.

4. National News & Technology

10th India Mobile Congress (IMC 2026)

- **Inaugurated By:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- **Major Announcement:** 5G network connectivity has successfully reached every district in India.
- **Expanded Focus Sectors:** Smart mobility, stadium experiences, industrial robotics, and transport technology.
- **Participation:** Over 150,000 attendees from 100+ countries, with 500+ global partners and exhibitors.

5. International News & MoUs

A. Global Supply Chain Initiative

- **Event:** India joined the United States and 13 other partner economies in a multilateral framework initiative.
- **Objective:** Address structural excess capacity, combat non-market economic policies, and build resilient critical mineral supply chains.

B. West Africa Bilateral Relations

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met leaders in Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen trade partnerships, digital public

infrastructure (DPI) exports, and energy security agreements.

C. West Asian Diplomacy

- India issued a diplomatic statement strongly condemning attacks targeting two civilian airports in Saudi Arabia, advocating strict protection of civil maritime and aviation infrastructure.

6. Sports News

A. Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan) – Cricket Highlights

- **Men's Cricket Final:** India defeated Pakistan by 19 runs to win the Gold Medal. India scored 211/6 in 20 overs; Pakistan scored 192/6.
- **Women's Cricket Final:** India defeated Sri Lanka by 147 runs to secure the Gold Medal (India: 216/3, Sri Lanka: 69 all out).

B. Bilateral Cricket Series

- In the 1st T20I against West Indies at Ekana Stadium, Lucknow, Shreyas Iyer scored a century (102 off 43 balls) leading India to an 8-wicket victory.

7. Important Days & Art & Culture

A. Important Days

- **October 8:** 94th Indian Air Force Day.
- **October 7:** World Cotton Day (Focus: Sustainable cotton production and value addition).
- **October 9:** World Post Day (Upcoming).

B. Art & Culture / Festivals

- **India Art Festival 2026 (14th Edition):** Hosted at the Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai. It brought together 250 contemporary artists across 85 stalls showcasing traditional and modern Indian visual arts.

Mid-Day



1. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was jointly awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel for their breakthrough in which field?

- (A) mRNA Vaccine Technology
- (B) CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing
- (C) Optogenetics and Light-Gated Ion Channels
- (D) Human Epigenome Mapping

2. Which scientist was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the IceCube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica?

- (A) Alain Aspect
- (B) Francis Halzen
- (C) Syukuro Manabe
- (D) Ferenc Krausz

3. What fundamental chemical phenomenon was illuminated by 2026 Nobel Chemistry laureates Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai?

- (A) Quantum Dot Fluorescence
- (B) Non-linear Effects and Autocatalysis in Asymmetric Synthesis
- (C) Conductive Polymer Synthesis
- (D) Metathesis in Organic Reactions

4. What is the official theme for the 94th Indian Air Force Day celebrated on October 8, 2026?

- (A) Touch the Sky with Glory
- (B) Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar
- (C) Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise
- (D) Radiant, Resilient and Vanguard

5. In its October 2026 Monetary Policy review, by how many basis points did the RBI MPC increase the Repo Rate?

- (A) 15 bps
- (B) 25 bps

(C) 35 bps

(D) 50 bps

6. Following the RBI MPC decision in October 2026, what is the revised Repo Rate for India?

- (A) 5.25%
- (B) 5.50%
- (C) 6.00%
- (D) 6.25%

7. What is the new monetary stance adopted by the RBI MPC in its October 2026 policy review?

- (A) Neutral Stance
- (B) Accommodative Stance
- (C) Calibrated Tightening
- (D) Strict Hawkish Hold

8. Which edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC 2026) was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on October 8, 2026?

- (A) 8th Edition
- (B) 9th Edition
- (C) 10th Edition
- (D) 12th Edition

9. Which major telecommunications achievement was highlighted during the inauguration of IMC 2026?

- (A) Completion of 6G testbeds nationwide
- (B) 5G coverage reaching every district in India
- (C) Launch of indigenous 10G fiber lines
- (D) Pan-India quantum communication grid rollout

10. The 57th GST Council meeting held on October 8, 2026 was chaired by whom?

- (A) Shaktikanta Das
- (B) TV Somanathan



(C) Nirmala Sitharaman

(D) Piyush Goyal

11. India joined the US and how many other partner economies in a joint initiative against non-market economic policies and structural excess capacity?

(A) 8

(B) 10

(C) 13

(D) 18

12. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar conducted high-level bilateral discussions in which West African country on October 8, 2026?

(A) Ghana

(B) Nigeria

(C) Côte d'Ivoire

(D) Senegal

13. Which underlying technology enables Optogenetics, the field recognized by the 2026 Medicine Nobel Prize?

(A) Sound-wave activation via ultrasound

(B) Light-sensitive channelrhodopsin proteins engineered into neurons

(C) Magnetic particle stimulation of synapses

(D) Radiofrequency brain pulses

14. In which location is the IceCube Neutrino Observatory situated?

(A) Atacama Desert, Chile

(B) South Pole, Antarctica

(C) Mauna Kea, Hawaii

(D) Mont Blanc, Alps

15. The "Soai Reaction" is famous in organic chemistry as a prime example of which chemical process?

(A) Asymmetric Autocatalysis

(B) Olefin Metathesis

(C) Click Chemistry

(D) Suzuki-Miyaura Coupling

16. On which date is the Indian Air Force Day commemorated every year?

(A) October 4

(B) October 8

(C) October 15

(D) October 24

17. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate set by the RBI in October 2026 stands at what level?

(A) 5.00%

(B) 5.25%

(C) 5.50%

(D) 5.75%

18. India defeated which cricket team in the Men's Final at the 2026 Asian Games to claim the Gold Medal?

(A) Sri Lanka

(B) Bangladesh

(C) Pakistan

(D) Afghanistan

19. India defeated which team to secure the Women's Cricket Gold Medal at the 2026 Asian Games?

(A) Australia

(B) Sri Lanka

(C) Pakistan

(D) South Africa

20. The 14th edition of the India Art Festival 2026 commenced at which iconic venue in Mumbai?



- (A) Jehangir Art Gallery
- (B) National Gallery of Modern Art
- (C) Nehru Centre, Worli
- (D) Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre

21. Which global day was observed globally on October 7, prior to IAF day?

- (A) World Cotton Day
- (B) World Habitat Day
- (C) World Teachers' Day
- (D) World Postal Day

22. What is the current Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate as per the October 2026 RBI Policy review?

- (A) 5.25%
- (B) 5.50%
- (C) 5.75%
- (D) 6.00%

23. In which year was the Indian Air Force officially founded as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire?

- (A) 1928
- (B) 1932
- (C) 1942
- (D) 1947

24. Which Indian batter recorded a century (102 off 43 balls) against West Indies in the 1st T20I in October 2026?

- (A) Suryakumar Yadav
- (B) Abhishek Sharma
- (C) Shreyas Iyer
- (D) Sanju Samson

25. Which sector was added as a new domain focus at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026?

- (A) Nuclear Fusion Energy
- (B) Industrial Robotics
- (C) Deep Sea Mining
- (D) Space Tourism

26. Which country's airports were targeted in drone attacks that India officially condemned on October 8, 2026?

- (A) UAE
- (B) Saudi Arabia
- (C) Qatar
- (D) Oman

27. How many artists participated in presenting contemporary art across 85 booths at the India Art Festival 2026?

- (A) 100
- (B) 150
- (C) 250
- (D) 500

28. "Homochirality"—the preference for single-handed molecules in life—was explained by the research awarded which 2026 Nobel Prize?

- (A) Medicine
- (B) Physics
- (C) Chemistry
- (D) Economic Sciences

29. Subatomic particles tracked by the IceCube Observatory that pass through solid matter with almost no interaction are known as:

- (A) Tachyons
- (B) Neutrinos
- (C) Quarks
- (D) Gluons

30. Who serves as the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) during the 94th IAF Day celebrations in 2026?



- (A) Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh
- (B) Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari
- (C) Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria
- (D) Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa

Answer Key & Detailed Explanations

Answer Key & Detailed Explanations

Q.No	Answer	Explanation
1	(C)	Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel won the 2026 Nobel in Medicine for optogenetics, which uses light to control light-gated ion channels in neurons.
2	(B)	Francis Halzen designed and built the IceCube Neutrino Observatory deep beneath the ice at the South Pole.
3	(B)	Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai won the Chemistry Nobel for discovering non-linear effects and asymmetric autocatalysis.
4	(C)	The 2026 theme for the 94th IAF Day is “Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise”.
5	(B)	The RBI Monetary Policy Committee voted to raise the repo rate by 25 basis points.
6	(B)	Following the 25 bps hike, the repo rate increased from 5.25% to 5.50%.
7	(C)	The MPC shifted its policy stance to "Calibrated Tightening".

Q.No	Answer	Explanation
8	(C)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th landmark edition of IMC in New Delhi.
9	(B)	PM Modi highlighted that 5G connectivity has reached every district across India.
10	(C)	The 57th GST Council meeting in New Delhi was chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
11	(C)	India joined the US and 13 other partner economies (14 nations in total) to target structural excess capacity.
12	(C)	Dr. S. Jaishankar held bilateral discussions with leaders of Côte d'Ivoire.
13	(B)	Optogenetics relies on inserting light-sensitive channelrhodopsin proteins into targeted nerve cells.
14	(B)	IceCube is situated deep under the Antarctic ice sheet at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.
15	(A)	The Soai reaction is the premier example of asymmetric autocatalysis where a product acts as a chiral catalyst for its own formation.
16	(B)	IAF Day is celebrated annually on October 8.

